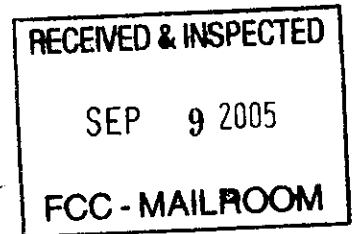




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September 2, 2005

Marlene H. Dortch
Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 – 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

**RE: ETC Certification to the FCC for 2006 Federal Universal Service
Support, Study Areas 482235 and 483308**

Dear Ms. Dortch:

Pursuant to the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) Fourteenth Report and Order, *In the Matter of the Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service*, CC Docket No. 96-45, Blackfoot Telephone Cooperative hereby certifies to the FCC and USAC that Blackfoot Telephone Cooperative is an eligible telecommunications carrier with study areas in the State of Montana and Idaho, and is eligible to receive universal service support in the year 2004. In support of this request, the following information is provided:

1. ETC Identification:

Blackfoot Telephone Cooperative, Inc.
1221 North Russell
P.O. Box 16600
Missoula, MT 59808

The Montana Public Service Commission sent a letter to all Montana ETCs, Rural and Non-Rural on August 16, 2005, in which it supplied filing instructions for the annual certification process. Per those instructions Blackfoot Telephone Cooperative certified with the Montana Public Service Commission for the exchanges located in the State of Montana. That certification was filed in N2005.8.118 on September 1, 2005. The Montana Public Service Commission will supply its certification of all Montana's Rural and Non-Rural ETCs to the FCC and USAC on or before October 1, 2005.

At the direction of the Idaho Commission, Blackfoot Telephone Cooperative hereby submits certification to the Commission for the exchange located in Idaho.

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2. Contact Information:

Any communications or questions regarding this request should be directed to:

William Squires
Sr. Vice President – General Counsel
Blackfoot Telephone Cooperative, Inc.
1221 North Russell
P.O. Box 16600
Missoula, MT 59808
Telephone: 406-541-5330
Fax: 406-541-5040
e-mail: wsquires@blackfoot.com

3. Study Area Information:

Attached hereto as Exhibit A is a listing of all local exchanges, by exchange prefix, switch name/location, and County, comprising Blackfoot Telephone Cooperative's incumbent local exchange ETC service area. Blackfoot Telephone Cooperative's "study areas" are comprised of all its incumbent local exchange properties listed on Exhibit A. The study areas have been assigned the study area codes of 482235 and 483308.

4. Rural Designation:

Blackfoot Telephone Cooperative is a rural telephone company as defined in **47 U.S.C. §153**. Additionally, Blackfoot Telephone Cooperative is an incumbent local exchange carrier as defined in **47 U.S.C. §251(h)**.

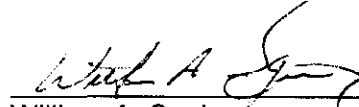
5. Use of Funds:

As provided in the affidavit of Theodore Otis, CFO, for Blackfoot Telephone Cooperative, which affidavit is being provided in conjunction with this request for certification, 2006 universal service funds will be used for and only for the purposes for which universal service support is intended, including the provision, maintenance, and upgrading of facilities and services provided by Blackfoot Telephone Cooperative to its members.

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch
September 2, 2005
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Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions or comments on this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "William A. Squires", is written over a horizontal line.

William A. Squires
Senior Vice President - General Counsel

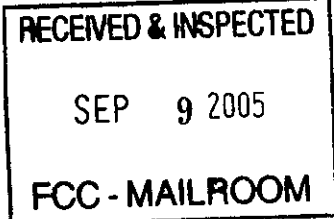


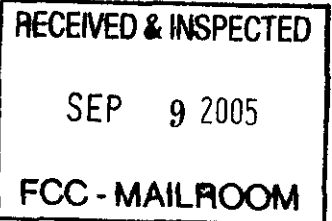
Exhibit A

Study Area 482235

Exchange Prefix	Switch Name	County
244	Potomac	Missoula
246	Dixon	Sanders
349	Alta	Ravalli
492	Avon	Powell
644	Charlo	Lake
677	Seeley Lake	Missoula
726	Arlee	Lake
745	St. Ignatius	Lake
754	Condon	Missoula
793	Ovando	Powell
825	Clinton	Missoula
864	Alberton South	Missoula
942	Powell*	Clearwater, Idaho

Study Area 483308

Exchange Prefix	Switch Name	County
288	Drummond	Granite
649	St. Regis	Mineral
678	Haugan	Mineral
722	Alberton	Missoula
822	Superior	Mineral
826	Plains	Sanders
827	Thompson Falls	Sanders
847	Noxon	Sanders
859	Philipsburg	Granite



State of Montana)
)
County of Missoula)

CERTIFICATION BY ELIGIBLE
TELECOMMUNICATION CARRIER PURSUANT
TO FCC ORDER NO. 01-157

Affidavit

Theodore Otis, being first duly sworn, says:

1. I am the CFO, for Blackfoot Telephone Cooperative, Inc. I make this affidavit from my own knowledge of the financial structure of Blackfoot Telephone Cooperative, Inc.
2. I make this affidavit on behalf of Blackfoot Telephone Cooperative, Inc.
3. On behalf of Blackfoot Telephone Cooperative, Inc., I certify that, pursuant to the Federal Communications Commission's *Fourteenth Report and Order, In the Matter of the Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service*, CC Docket No. 96-45, Blackfoot Telephone Cooperative will use all federal high-cost, local switching, and any related "lifeline" or safety net support provided to it for and only for the purposes for which universal service support is intended, including the provision, maintenance, and upgrading of facilities and services provided by Blackfoot Telephone Cooperative, Inc. to its subscribers, consistent with the principles set forth in 47 U.S.C. §254.

Theodore Otis

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me this 2nd day of September, 2005.

Notary for the State of Montana
Residing at Missoula, Montana

My commission expires: 10/21/2006

(Notarial Seal)